

THE
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
School Committee

OF THE
TOWN OF CANTON,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 1878.

BOSTON:
WILLIAM BENSE, PRINTER, 35 CONGRESS STREET,
1878.

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R E P O R T .

ORGANIZATION.

THE Committee was organized as follows :

J. MASON EVERETT, *Chairman*.

ARTHUR C. KOLLOCK, *Secretary*.

J. MASON EVERETT, GEO. F. SUMNER, and ARTHUR C.

KOLLOCK, *Committee on Text Books*.

Sub Committees :

High School, J. MASON EVERETT.

District, No. 1, J. W. WATTLES,

“ “ 2, ISAAC HORTON,

“ “ 3, V. J. MESSINGER,

“ “ 4, JESSE FENNO,

“ “ 5, GEO. E. DOWNES,

“ “ 6, THOS. LONERGAN,

“ “ 7, ARTHUR C. KOLLOCK.

FREDERIC ENDICOTT, *Supt. of Schools*.

D. C. F. ELLIS, *Agent for sale of School Books*.

JOHN S. WATTLES, }
LUCIUS EDSON, } *Truant Officers*.
CHAS. N. DRAPER, }

FINANCIAL.

The appropriation by the Town for teaching, fuel and care of School-rooms, was	- - - - -	\$11.000 00
Received from State, (School Fund,)	- -	207 59
“ “ County (Dog Licenses,)	- -	526 23

Total, \$11.733 82

Amount paid for teaching,	- - -	\$9.932 15
Fuel and care of rooms,	- - -	1.086 22
Due and unpaid,	- - - - -	65 75 11.084 12
Balance unexpended,	- - - - -	<u>649 70</u>

The amount appropriated for repairs, incidentals, supplies, and supervision, was	- - - - -	\$2.000 00
Amount paid for same,	- - - - -	2.257 02
Excess over appropriation,	- - - - -	257 02

Included in the expenditures for repairs and incidentals, is \$540. paid for repairs of School-house in Dist. No. 3, \$150 paid for painting High School-house and grading avenue to the same, and \$150 for books of reference and apparatus in connection with the new course of study adopted by the Committee.

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION.

To relieve the pressure caused by the large and increasing number of pupils in Districts No. 1 and 6, it will be necessary to reorganize those schools and establish a Grammar School in the Hall of the High School-house. The cost of furnishing that room for such a school would be about \$400 and is included in the sum asked for, for incidentals.

MUSIC.

Vocal Music has now been taught three full years, as a regular study in our schools. The result as indicated by the progress of the pupils is highly gratifying. To give the people of the town an opportunity to note this progress, two musical exhibitions have been held of the High and Grammar Schools. Notwithstanding the great disadvantage arising from the fact of their having had but two general rehearsals, and the necessity of arranging 130 pupils upon a platform with a capacity for not more than three-fourths of that number, we think the large number of our townspeople, who attended those exhibitions, will be willing to admit that the \$500 which it costs annually to maintain this branch is wisely expended.

HIGH SCHOOL.

The High School now contains 46 pupils. This, it is believed, is a larger number than have ever before at any one time been enrolled in that school.

The admissions have been as follows :

From No. 1, Grammar School,	-	-	-	3
“ “ 3, “ “	-	-	-	11
“ “ 4, Mixed, “	-	-	-	1
“ “ 6, Grammar, “	-	-	-	3

Total admissions, 18

Sixteen of the above number joined the school.

The graduating exercises occurred July 3, and in accordance with the vote of the Committee, diplomas were presented to the following

GRADUATES.

HOMER CALEB BOWMAN,
MARTHA ELINOR GREY.

SUPERVISION.

Monthly written examinations of the first classes in the Grammar Schools have been continued, and bi-monthly written examinations are now required by the new regulations for all the classes above the Primary, as a test of their progress under, and adherence to a new and uniform course of study, which has been adopted for all the schools from Primary to High School. This is the first attempt in the history of the Canton schools to introduce a uniform course of study, and the statement of your Superintendent, that it will require several years to bring the schools wholly to the new system indicates the radical character of the change, and the magnitude of the work the committee have undertaken. Your Committee have long felt, and from time to time expressed the urgent need for such a system. Action has, however, been delayed first, by their conviction of their own inability un-

aided to prepare a suitable course, and secondly, by the inadequacy of the means at their disposal for carrying such a system into effect. Happily the former obstacle has been removed by the recent publication of two courses of study covering the required ground, one (accompanied by a Manual of Methods,) by three Supervisors of instruction of long experience, and the other, by an association of the School Committees of Hampshire County, under the auspices of the State Board of Education. Your Committee have, after due consideration, adopted "*How to Teach*," the Manual of Methods, above referred to, including the course therein laid down, as on the whole best adapted to our needs, and a copy of that work has been placed in the hands of every teacher. But this is only a short step in the direction of accomplishing the results sought for. Our teachers must be persistently trained by precept and example in the use of the new methods. Failing to do this we fail entirely, as not one teacher in a hundred is capable of grasping the principle and applying the new methods unaided. But just here the Committee find the means at their disposal entirely inadequate. Their hands are tied. They contract with a Superintendent for his services for fifteen hours a week, and a large portion of this time is necessarily spent in the preparation and inspection of examination papers and in attending to other important matters outside the school-room. Is it reasonable to expect good results from appliances thus limited? No more reasonable than to expect good mechanical work to be produced by any establishment, one half of whose workmen are apprentices, and all are employed upon new and untried work, without the constant supervision of a skilled master mechanic. What is true of our factories and workshops is true of our schools. What is true economy in the one case is true economy in the other. What we spend each year upon our schools far exceeds what we spend for any other single purpose. It certainly behooves us to strive to obtain the very best return for this ex-

penditure. To do less than this, is, so far as we come short of it, to waste our money. What then is the remedy for this state of affairs? The answer has already been anticipated. It is the constant application of skilled supervision. Your Committee have neither the time nor the ability to do this work. Your Superintendent can devote not more than two days in the week to it. If done at all, and we have tried to show how important it is that it should be done, it must be done by a Superintendent who can devote his whole time and energy to this work.

The State Board of Education in its last annual report uses the following language in relation to this subject :

"The employment of an experienced, intelligent leader, responsible for results, is as necessary in school affairs, as it is, and is acknowledged to be, in all other organizations and occupations; a leader who shall spend all his time and strength in looking after the interests of the schools, and who shall be constantly devising new means for their improvement, so that there may be an adequate return for what is expended."

No truer word was ever spoken than that uttered by JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, *Chairman of the Quincy School Committee*, when he said in the presence of the assembled School Committees of Norfolk County, that "the School Committee man as the sole manager of schools is played out. The necessity of the hour demands the employment for this purpose of the trained specialist, who, going between the School Committees and the schools, shall bring to his work the best thought and experience of the times, and be held responsible for the results." Meetings of the School Committees of several other Counties have been held, at which this question of supervision has been considered, and there seems to be a movement along the whole line in its favor. Quincy and Weymouth both find their interest in the employment of professional superintendents, and one only need visit the schools in those towns to be convinced of the wisdom and

economy of their course. Of the results accomplished in Quincy, in two years, the Board of Education speaks as follows :

"Quincy furnishes a striking example of what can be accomplished, even in a short time, through the right kind of superintendence. Two years ago the schools there were about on a par with those of the average town. In less than a year after they were placed under the charge of Col. F. W. Parker, the teachers had become indoctrinated with his ideas and methods, and had caught his enthusiasm. In consequence, the schools were wonderfully transformed. The Primary schools deserve special mention. I made a careful comparison of their methods, and the results obtained, with those of the best Primary Schools I knew, in town or city, and was surprised at the general superiority of the Quincy work."

Milton voted, at its last town meeting, to employ a superintendent, and your Committee have come to the unanimous conclusion that Canton, which was one of the first country towns to choose a partial Superintendent, will consult her best and truest interest by placing at the disposal of the Committee the means for employing full supervision, and have included in their estimates below the cost of such supervision.

ESTIMATES FOR 1878.

The Committee estimate the expenses for 1878 as follows :

For teachers' salaries, - - -	\$10.000 00
For fuel and care of school-rooms, - -	1.000 00
	<hr/>
	11.000 00
Estimating the School Fund and dog licenses at	700 00
	<hr/>

We have a balance to be appropriated to teaching, fuel, and care of school rooms of - - - 10.300 00

For repairs, incidentals, and supplies including printing, insurance, cost of supervision and \$400, for furnishing High School Hall for Grammar School, - - - - - 2.700 00

It will be seen from the above figures, that your Committee propose to maintain one more school than last year, in a room fitted up at an expense of \$400 and secure full supervision of the schools without any increase in the appropriation.

ATTENDANCE.

Your Committee take pleasure in recording the gratifying fact that there has been for several years a steady improvement in the attendance of pupils. Never before have there been recorded so large a number of names in the Roll of Honor.

In Memoriam.

The death in February last, of Miss ALICE H. LOWRY, for many years one of our most faithful and efficient teachers called forth the following resolutions, which were offered by Mr. A. C. Kollock, and unanimously adopted by the Board.

Whereas, It has pleased an All-wise and loving Providence to remove by death Miss Alice H. Lowry, who has for eleven years been a teacher in our Public Schools,—therefore

Resolved, That we, the School Committee of Canton, hereby express our appreciation of her high merits as a teacher, and of the rare and noble qualities which endeared her to those under her charge, and gained for her a host of friends in this community.

Resolved, That we tender her relatives, and more immediate companions, our sincere condolence in this hour of their bereavement, and commend them to the God in whom their loved one found repose.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in the Canton Journal, and that a copy of the same be sent to her bereaved family.

Roll of Honor.



THE FIGURES AT THE RIGHT INDICATE THE NUMBER OF TIMES TARDY.

Names of those not absent during the year.

Ida J. Capen	Julia A. Crane	J. D. Dunbar—2
Arthur B. Kollock	Mary A. Seavey	Marion A. Bowman
Gertrude Capen	A. L. Hewett	Winthrop Packard—2
Ella G. Richards	A. Hermon Gill	Alice M. Horton
Percy M. Leavitt	Charlotte M. Endicott	A. Isabel Williams
Herbert L. Fenno	Helen E. Endicott	Thomas Herron—3
John Herron	John Kailher—1	Thomas Henneberry
Joseph E. Capper	Ellen F. Bride	Ellen Danahy—1
William E. Capper	John A. Fisher	Frank Lynch—1
Annie Galligan	Hannah Murphy	Blake A. Pitcher
Letitia McCabe	Jeremiah Buckley—1	Fred. R. Foss
James Galligan	Martin J. Kaliher	Julia Burke
Margaret L. Danahy—1	John W. Thomas—1	Annie E. Capper
Minnie F. Smith—2	Emma B. Wentworth	Abby A. Withington—4
John G. Estey—1	Sarah E. Fisher	George A. Hodges—5
Eva King	J. Oliver Morrow	Annie Block
Ernest T. Capen—2	George H. Jenkins	William B. Kollock
	John J. McCabe	

Names of those not absent during two terms.

Ellen Reardon	Ellen Clarke	Millie E. Wentworth
Alice W. Ames	Emma F. Pitcher	David Finigan
I. Chester Horton	Annie S. Mackintosh	Oakes Ames
Amy A. Downes	Thomas H. Dunn.	Nellie F. Saunders
Carrie D. Smith	Edward J. Welch	John S. Mackintosh
Alice M. Hunt—1	Helen M. Marshall—1	Mary G. Snow
Annie M. Reed	Annie Clarke—2	Georgie E. Downes
Mary Sullivan	A. Amy Cave	Irene M. Everett
Susan A. Herron	Ada L. Timmins	Ernest C. Hosmer—1
A. Lindsey Williamson	Harry F. Davenport—4	Annie Shine—10
Jeremiah Kailher—3	Abbie J. Davenport—3	Roger S. Davenport
Cornelius G. Kaliher—1	Thomas D. Lynch	John Cronin
Viola F. Capper	Timothy Leary	Thomas Costello
Timothy Quill—1	John F. Kelliher	James H. Lloyd
Sarah Earley	Mary Fox—2	Catherine Kelliher
Grace O'Neill	Dennis Cohan—1	Harry H. Saunders
Catherine A. Cohan	Ellen McGahan	Josiah Bunn
John Drislane	Cornelius Healey	Ellen Drislane
Thomas Galligan	Edmund H. Holmes	Isabella Grimes
Mary J. Grealish	Charles M. Harding—1	Catherine E. Costello—2
William H. Creeden—3	Robert E. Lloyd	Elizabeth Flynn
John W. Coombs—2	George E. Howard	Lillian M. Harding—3
George S. Clay—3	Helen M. Tucker	Ida R. Billings
Susan F. Currant—1	L. Etta May	Mary E. Reardon
Edward E. Fuller	Albert Meadows—2	Ellen Reardon—1st.—4
Ellen Reardon, 2d	Frederic A. Howard	James B. Noyes—1
L. Alonzo Hodges—17	Avery S. Briggs	Peter Corr
Maria D. Fisher	Ira C. Marden—10	Jessie M. Cram
Mary A. Cogan	John E. Dunn—4	Catherine Murphy
Elizabeth Roarke	John Carey	Dennis J. O. Riordan—1
Mary Block	Catherine A. Chisel—1	Amy G. Smith—4
Arthur A. Tucker	Elvira S. Carr	Mary Casey

Edna Tucker
J. Henry Morrow
Lucy A. Freeman
Sarah McKenna

Lucius W. Conant
Joanna Connor
Maud A. Linfield
Annie E. Shaw

Frank W. Dunbar
Mildred M. Dunbar
Mary McCarty
Mary L. Galligan

Names of those not absent during one term.

Homer C. Bowman
Angenette Wiswall
John C. Gerald
William E. McPherson
John A. Williams
Annie D. Williams
Henry W. Estey—5
Ellen M. Sweeney—1
Mary J. Sweeney—1
Frank Crowther—1
William W. Partridge
Ella L. Hunt—3
Timothy McCarty—2
Thomas B. Mabbott
Catherine Donovan—1
Annie M. Leary
William H. Russell
James Connell
David Roach—5
Mary A. Mabbott
Lucy M. Deane
Rosanna O'Neill
Thomas Reilly
James Brady—3
G. Albert Billings
Herbert T. Seavey
Annie Sullivan
Daniel Dineen
Annie Callery
Jeremiah Carniff.
Bridget Cunningham
Herbert A. Billings
Ellen J. Galligan—1
George Thomas—2
George A. Harrington—3
Sarah L. Coombs
Mary E. Richards—1
Catherine Flynn
Margaret E. O'Neill
Martha A. Clay
Amos H. Estey—3
Augusta Sawyer—5
Daniel Collins
Ella E. Briggs
George E. Hancock
Catherine A. Linehan—1
Margery S. Wattles
James L. Smith—1
Robert Kerrigan
D. Viola Harrington
Walter H. Preble

Lucy E. Seavey
Alice S. Smith
Rose A. Chapman
Thomas Tapper, Jr.
May A. Sumner
Robert Bird, Jr.
Edward Everett
George Meadows
Honora Cronon—2
Edmund Roach—2
Margaret Kaillier
Ellis E. Farrington
Charles McCarty—2
William F. Spencer
Alice Fox
John Carniff—1
Julia A. Connell
Thomas Hanlon
Catherine Hanlon
Margaret White
Ellen Kaliher
Sarah A. Roach—5
Teresa Hallidan
Honora Creeden—1
Daniel T. Gallivan—1
Ella F. Billings
M. Agnes White
Charles J. Galligan
Jane E. Healey
John Fox
James Cadigan—1
James T. Thomas
Christopher Myers
Eliza E. Perkins
Fred F. Seavey—1
Genevieve Farrington
Edmond H. Bowler
Flora A. Fellows
Henry D. Deane
Mabel Starr—1
Lilla Mann
Flora B. Fuller—1
William P. Murdock—1
Mary E. Collins
C. Elmer Carroll
William H. Hodges
James C. Ryan—8
James Chisel
Mary E. Dennison
Ellen McGuiggan
Sarah McGuiggan

George H. Capen
Florence A. Cobb—1
Samuel Meadows
Mary O. Wentworth
Sarah A. Chapin
Lawrence Clinton—2
H. Archibald Ferry
Agnes M. Bright
James F. Lyons
Emma J. Leeman
Clara Hunt
Lawrence Horton
George H. Smith—1
Catherine E. Bueckley
Elizabeth Grimes
George H. Lyons
Mary Withington
George McGuire—1
John Sheehan
Catherine Danahy—1
Elizabeth Lynch—2
Patrick Ring
Johanna Shea
Margaret Murphy
Herbert A. Morse
Margaret Ryan
John Leary
James Lynch
Eleanor H. Russell—1
James Tynan
Alexander Healey—1
Susanna A. Gilligan
Frederic E. Billings
Peter Grimes
Annie Buckley
Ella M. Harrington
James E. McPherson
Mabel F. Linfield
Esther J. Martin
Mary E. Withington
Alice E. Haskins—2
Frederic W. Reed
Mary B. Murdock—1
Rosanna Roarke—1
James E. Meehan
Cora M. Oliver
Edward D. Kollock
Catherine C. Finigan—1
Daniel Chisel
Charles J. Waters—1



The Committee commend to your attention the Report of the Superintendent hereto attached.

J. MASON EVERETT,	} <i>School Committee.</i>
GEO. F. SUMNER,	
J. W. WATTLES,	
ISAAC HORTON,	
JESSE FENNO,	
GEO. E. DOWNES,	
THOMAS LONERGAN,	
ARTHUR C. KOLLOCK,	
V. G. MESSINGER.	

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

Gentlemen of the School Committee:

I have the honor to submit the following report:—
At the beginning of the School Year the schools were in charge of the following teachers:

High School,	MR. CLARENCE H. BERRY,
“ “ Assistant,	MISS MARY L. PRESCOTT,
Dist. No. 1, Grammar,	MR. GEO. W. CAPEN,
“ “ Primary,	MISS CHARLOTTE TUCKER,
“ “ 2 Mixed,	MISS HELEN G. KINSLEY,
“ “ 3 Grammar,	MR. HERBERT L. MORSE,
“ “ “ “	MISS ELLA M. HILL,
“ “ “ Intermediate,	MISS ALICE H. LOWRY,
“ “ “ “	MISS LUCIE A. HALL,
“ “ “ Primary,	MISS ELDORA A. DRAKE,
“ “ “ “	MISS EMMA P. BENSE,
“ “ “ “	MISS CARRIE L. SHATTUCK,
“ “ “ “	MISS M. ELLA DEANE,
“ “ 4 Mixed,	MISS ELIZA A. SUMNER,
“ “ 5 “	MISS MARY J. HOLMES,
“ “ 6 Grammar,	MR. JEREMIAH E. EARLE,
“ “ “ Primary,	MISS E. FLORENCE FAUNCE,
“ “ 7 Intermediate,	MRS. ABBY J SNOW,
“ “ “ Primary,	MISS MARY SCOLLARD.

With the exception that three transfers were made, these teachers were employed until within three weeks of the close of the year, when Miss Lowry was obliged to leave her school on account of ill health, and died before the term

ended. Miss Lowry had been a teacher in the schools of District No. 3 for eleven years, and discharged the duties of her position so ably and conscientiously, that she will long be affectionately remembered by her associate teachers, and the parents of the district.

The "Roll of Honor" submitted to your attention, contains 312 names, 42 more than last year. To show the effect of printing the names in the School Report, I give the number of names in each part of the Roll for each year that it has been published, and also the aggregate reduced to single terms.

1874, 3 Terms,	10 ;	2 Terms,	30 ;	1 Term,	94 ;	Agg'te,	184
1875, " "	20 ;	" "	64 ;	" "	128 ;	" "	316
1876, " "	38 ;	" "	66 ;	" "	133 ;	" "	379
1877, " "	54 ;	" "	81 ;	" "	135 ;	" "	459
1878, " "	52 ;	" "	108 ;	" "	152 ;	" "	524

The number of tardy marks upon the list is this year 198 against 171 last year. It must be remembered that a pupil's name is not placed upon this list if he enters school after the first half-day of the term, or closes his connection with the school, before the end of the term. There are a number of other pupils who are deserving of credit for their punctual attendance, but who have been absent on account of sickness or other unavoidable causes.

The average attendance as compared with the whole number of pupils attending the schools, is this year 84 per cent., being a gain of one per cent. over last year.

The change of reading books, voted by the committee the past winter, has been completed in the lowest classes. Some of the higher classes have made the change and others are about to do so. By the first of September the change should be completed. In some towns where text books are provided for the pupils, twenty-five or more copies of readers of several different series are furnished, and each school takes a different kind. After the pupils have read once through the books the schools make an exchange, thus giving the scholars

much more practice in reading at sight, than is obtained by going repeatedly over the stories with which many are so familiar as to be able to repeat the lessons almost word for word. As a change has so lately been made in readers, the system would not be advisable in our schools this year, although it is possible that it may soon be so.

The new course of study adopted for the grammar and lower grades, is in some respects so different from the old one, that several years will be required to bring the schools wholly to the new system. As the teachers become familiar with the details, it will also be found that the ground to be covered in each year's study will need some modification. At the beginning of the Fall Term, the second class in the Grammar Schools was started in American History, so that that branch was already in conformity with the new course at its adoption. The text-book in grammar for the two highest grades, adopted by the Committee in February, is not adapted to the course of study as laid down in the Teachers' Manual, and I would recommend that your action on that subject be reconsidered, as the "Higher Lessons in English" by Reed and Kellogg, is much better suited to the course. It not only contains more and better exercises in sentence-building, than "Swinton's Language Lessons", but also abundant quotations from many of the most noted modern English writers. This is a valuable feature of the work, as it is well known that a good model is as necessary for those studying English composition, as any amount of work in correcting sentences like "Mary sings sweet" which every pupil in the higher primary schools should be able to do. Indeed the "Language Lessons" is, according to its author's own statement, intended for those wholly below the grade of our Grammar Schools. Any teacher ought to be able to give better blanks to be filled, and better lessons in Language, and I have no doubt that our Intermediate and Primary teachers can do so.

The High School is in a very good condition. The number of scholars admitted in September was 18, of whom 16

entered the school and have remained to the present time. The other classes contain 10 members each. As the graduating class consisted of but two members, it will be seen that the school has about 12 more pupils than for several years. The class in Natural Philosophy for some reason, does not seem to do as well as I had expected. Most of its members appear to have very indefinite ideas of the science, and do not take much interest in the recitations. This is caused by the imperfect text-book, the want of apparatus, and the prominence given to theory. Too much time is spent upon formulas which are far beyond the comprehension of the scholars. What is needed by most of them is a course of simple experiments, which will illustrate the subjects under consideration. This study is a highly important one to all persons, and especially to those who are to engage in any mechanical pursuit.

As is well known to the Committee, there is no English Course in the High School. A pupil who enters is virtually compelled to study Latin for three years. So far as I know all other towns have an English Course for those who do not wish to take a Classical Course. While I am not in favor of a lower standard for the High School, I think that those who need an English Course should have the privilege.

The Grammar School in Dist. No. 1 has remained so full that no promotions were made from the Primary Department. For this reason, both teachers have had through the winter, more work than they ought to have. The number will diminish soon, as several of the older ones generally leave to go to work when spring opens. If however, the school is as full next Winter, it is probable that an assistant will be needed.

The Grammar School in Dist. No. 3, which has for several years maintained a low rank, has improved considerably during the year in Arithmetic, but declined in Geography. On the whole, however, its standing is better than last year, eight scholars passing the examination for the High School, although

at the time of making my last report, I did not expect more than four or five would be able to do so.

The written examinations in the first class of the Grammar Schools have been given throughout the year, and furnish, I think, the best means of judging of the qualifications of those applying for admission to the High School. I intended to give the first of the written examination of the lower classes at the end of the Winter term, but was unable to do so at that time. These classes are not yet so closely together in their studies that I should place much value upon such tests. The first written examinations for these classes will be given in the course of a month.

The book called "*How to Teach*," adopted by the Committee, is in the main a very good book, as it certainly ought to be coming from those who have made the study of teaching the business of their lives. Yet it can be made the basis of mechanical teaching just as easily as the most abstractly scientific text-book that ever was written. Especially is this the case if everything contained in the book is blindly taught. Among other things in it which should *not* be taught are "2 quarts make 1 small measure," "58 lbs. make 1 bushel of corn," "9 cubic feet make 1 cubic yard," &c. I also doubt the advisability of expecting teachers to give instruction in Zoölogy, a subject which it is impossible that many of them can understand. Some of the chromos which are supposed to furnish the objects for these object-lessons are so poor that they can give but a slight smattering of the science and furnish a striking illustration of Art Education in Massachusetts.

One great fault in many schools is the attempt to hear a large class recite at one time. Very few if any teachers can hold the attention of more than 12 or 14 pupils, and in primary classes the best teachers do not attempt to attend to more than 8 or 10 at once. If the class is larger it should be divided into sections.

I would recommend that the music teacher make a pro-

gramme of his hours for visiting each school, and that it should then be adopted by the Committee, as the irregularity of the lessons interferes somewhat with the other studies of the schools.

As mentioned in my last report some of the school-houses need wells, and the subject of ventilation also requires attention.

In conclusion, I would say that the schools appear to be in good condition. The art of teaching is emphatically a practical one. A knowledge of the theories of this art is a necessary part of the education of a good teacher, but sound common sense, and a habit of observation are even more essential. The theory and experimental practice of chemistry seem very simple so long as the pure elements only are used, but the actual separation of metals from their ores or the production of good colors by the process of dyeing, are tasks requiring manual skill and good judgment. The operation must be varied according to the combinations in which the metal exists, or sometimes a chemical change must be arrested at a particular stage. So the teacher needs to take into consideration the capacity and surroundings of the pupil, and alter the mode of teaching, as the varying needs of the class seem to require. For like reasons a system which works well in one place may not be successful in another. To carry the parallel with chemistry a step farther, the most valuable results are not those which, like the electric light or strontian flame, dazzle with their brilliancy, or give splendor to a display of pyrotechnics, but rather those which silently perform their work as the same electricity spreads knowledge throughout the world by means of the telegraph or electrotype plate.

Respectfully submitted,

FREDERIC ENDICOTT,

Superintendent of Schools.

At a meeting of the School Committee of Canton, held Wednesday, March 20, 1878, the foregoing reports were adopted as the Annual Report of the School Committee.

Attest, ARTHUR C. KOLLOCK, *Secretary.*

STATISTICS OF SCHOOLS.

SUB COMMITTEES.	Districts.	Grade of Schools.	No. in School 1st Term.	Average Attendance.	Per cent. of Attendance	No. in School 2d Term.	Average Attendance.	Per cent. of Attendance	No. in School 3d Term.	Average Attendance.	Per cent. of Attendance	Over 15 Years.	Under 5 Years.	Length of School in months.	Amount expended for teaching, during the year, including \$65.75 unpaid.	Amount paid for Fuel and care of Rooms.	Amount paid for repairs and incidentals.	Printing, Advertising, and Supplies.
J. W. WATLES.	{ 1 2	Gram. Prim.	50	41	82	39	34	87	43	39	.91	8	2	9 ³ / ₄	\$784 00	{ \$158 30 32 50	{ \$94 08 52 81	{ \$946 14
ISAAC HORTON.		Mixed.	58	48	.83	48	.84	.86	53	46	.87	2	1	10	412 00			
V. J. MESSINGER.	{ 3 4	Gram.	64	52	81	64	56	.88	64	56	.88	10	10	10	800 00	{ 471 16	{ *1,026 18	{
JESSE FENNO.		1st. Int.	42	35	.83	36	31	.86	35	31	.89	1	1	9 ³ / ₄	440 75			
GEORGE E. DOWNES.		2d. Int.	39	31	.79	41	34	.83	39	32	.82	1	1	10	420 00			
THOMAS LONERGAN.	{ 5 6 7	1st. P.	43	36	.84	42	37	.88	41	38	.93			10	356 40	{ 44 50 40 00 140 50 64 86	{ 11 35 9 62 64 86 46 79	{
A. C. KOLLOCK.		2d. P.	37	34	.92	36	34	.94	33	33	.85			10	380 25			
J. MASON EVERETT.		3d. P.	71	57	.77	61	51	.85	58	48	.83			10	324 00			
		4th. P.	72	57	.79	60	53	.89	62	54	.88			10	312 00			
	{ 7 8 9 10 11	Mixed.	28	22	.79	22	18	.82	22	19	.86	4	1	10	416 75	{ 44 50 40 00 140 50 64 86 305 16	{	{
		Gram.	43	28	.65	41	41	.80	42	31	.74	1	2	10	352 00			
		Prim.	26	23	.88	34	29	.85	35	29	.83	1	2	10	800 00			
		Prim.	76	58	.76	65	48	.74	68	55	.81			10	420 00			
		Int.	38	29	.76	34	29	.85	34	31	.91	1	2	10	417 75			
	{ 12 13	Prim.	59	50	.85	57	48	.84	54	45	.83			10	1200 00	{ 66 55 132 62	{ 46 79 305 16	{
		High. Music.	34	32	.95	46	45	.99	46	45	.98	20		10	520 00			
			811	655	.81	773	661	.85	767	660	.86	57	10	169 ³ / ₄	\$9,997 90	\$1,086 22	\$1,310 85	\$946 17

*Including \$300 special appropriation for fence in Dist. No. 3. Whole number of children May 1, 1877, between the ages of 5 and 15, 905.



